

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 17 are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4 – 8, 11 and 13 – 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0029703 to Kubota (hereinafter referred to as “the Kubota ‘703 publication”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0127001 to Kanno (hereinafter referred to as “the Kanno ‘001 publication”) and rejected claims 3, 9, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kubota ‘703 publication in view of the Kanno ‘001 publication and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,401,606 to Sato (hereinafter referred to as “the Sato ‘606 patent”).

By this Response and Amendment, claims 1, 13, 16 and 17 are amended to recite “a first and a second array of light emitting diodes, each configured to display a progress status of each work process by combinations of turning on and turning off the respective light emitting diodes in correspondence with a percentage of work completed in each process, wherein at least one work process is different from another work process;” and, as amended, the rejections to claims 1, 13, 16 and 17 and to the claims dependent thereon have been traversed.

Support for the amendments is provided on page 17, line 8 of the originally filed specification. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter to this application within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132.

Examiner Interview

Applicants conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner on March 7, 2007. During

the interview, the Examiner indicated that the claims of the present application should recite more structure relating to the work process progress display device.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4 – 8, 11 and 13 – 17 as being unpatentable over the Kubota '703 publication in view of the Kanno '001 publication and rejected claims 3, 9, 10 and 12 as being unpatentable over the Kubota '001 publication in view of the Kanno '001 publication and in further view of the Sato '606 patent.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejection since the cited prior art references, neither alone nor in combination with each other, discloses, teaches or suggests all of the features of the presently claimed invention. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must establish that the prior art references teach or suggest all of the claim features. *Amgen, Inc. v. Chugai Pharm. Co.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *In re Fine*, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Wilson*, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “a work process progress display unit having a first and a second array of light emitting diodes, each configured to display a progress status of each work process by combinations of turning on and turning off the respective light emitting diodes in correspondence with a percentage of work completed in each process, wherein at least one work process is different from another work process.”

The Kubota '703 publication discloses display of a work process in which a particular printing drum is used. Also, the Kubota '703 publication discloses showing the status of a page as different ink

drums apply different inks to the page. The Kanno '001 publication discloses a printer that produces a stencil and that can display the status of a *printing* process. The Sato '606 patent discloses a stencil printer that includes a multistage paper feeding device.

In contrast to the presently claimed invention, the cited prior art combinations do not disclose, teach or suggest "a work process progress display unit having a first and a second array of light emitting diodes, each configured to display a progress status of each work process by combinations of turning on and turning off the respective light emitting diodes in correspondence with a percentage of work completed in each process, wherein at least one work process is different from another work process" as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims 13, 16 and 17. The arrayed feature of the light emitting diodes and the correspondence with the amount of work completed provides the advantage of identifying how much work is complete and how much work remains. This feature of the presently claimed invention is not disclosed, taught or suggested in any of the cited prior art references or in any combination thereof.

Therefore, the cited prior art references, alone or in combination, do not render the presently claimed invention obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

Appl. No. 10/782,767
Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2007
Attorney Docket No. 26001

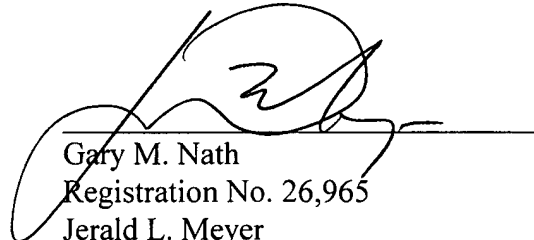
In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,

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